

## BOOK REVIEWS

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL.** A Volume for the Health Officer and Public Health Nurse. By Gaylord W. Anderson, A.B., M.D., Ph.D., May Professor and Director, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, and Margaret G. Arnstein, R.N., M.A., M.P.H., Assistant to the Chief, Division of Nursing, United States Public Health Service. Second Edition. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1948. \$5.00.

The authors place emphasis on the factors related to the control of disease rather than to the diagnosis and treatment of the individual case. Therefore, the health worker or the practicing physician interested in epidemiology will find the work of particular value.

The first part is a discussion of the infectious processes and the factors related to the spread of disease. The section on control measures includes the standard procedures of isolation and environmental sanitation and a concise up-to-date review of the principles of immunization. The whys and hows of effective epidemiological investigation will be found of interest.

Part Two deals with the specific infectious diseases, principal consideration being given to those which are of primary importance and for which something can be done. The discussion of each disease or group is concluded by recommended action by the health officer and his staff.

The place of the newer rodenticides, ANTU and 1080, and insecticide, DDT, is discussed in relation to insect-borne infections.

The authors have interestingly and authoritatively presented the newer concepts of the control of communicable disease.

**THE Rh FACTOR.** In the Clinic and the Laboratory. Joseph M. Hill, M.D., and William Dameshek, M.D., Editors. Grune and Stratton, New York. \$4.25.

This volume, a special issue of *Blood, the Journal of Hematology*, consists of a collection of 13 papers on the Rh factor. The volume ought to be considered an issue of the *Journal* because of the nature of the papers. The contributions are of value to the geneticist, the immunologist, persons interested in applied clinical laboratory procedures, the hematologist interested in the mechanisms of hemolysis and transfusion reactions, those working in the field of iso-immunization, the pediatrician, the obstetrician, the clinician and the therapist. The subject matter of the volume may be roughly divided into two general categories, one dealing with the more theoretical and academic aspects of the problem, and the other dealing with the more practical phases of the problem which require immediate action and are of importance to the clinician.

In the first group is to be found a short historical resume by Levine, one of the earliest contributors on the subject of the Rh factor. R. R. Race reviews the nomenclature of the British workers who use the Fisher scheme of multiple allelic arrangements of the genetic factors. Dameshek contributes a review of his researches on the mechanism of hemolysis and discusses the physiologic principles of red cell destruction, the chemical and physical factors of erythro-stasis, and the functions of the spleen in hemolysis. The interrelationship between the Rh system and the A B O system in hemolytic disease of the newborn is reported by Witebsky, who gives an instance of the production of an anti-A antibody of the blocking type. One of the outstanding papers of this section is that of Hill, Haberman and Jones, who discuss hemolytic Rh immune globulins, and present convincing evidence of a third order of antibodies, which they have designated "cryptagglutinoids."

The papers of the second group deal with the more practical considerations of the subject. A paper of much practical value to the clinician, on the management of acute renal insufficiency due to incompatible transfusions, is given by Muirhead, Haley, Habermann and Hill. Davidsohn contributes a provocative paper on the relationship between the character and intensity of the Rh antibodies in the mother and the resultant variety of hemolytic disease in the newborn. The significances of these factors are correlated in terms of survival of the afflicted. A companion article by Bruce Chown presents some deviations from the usual pattern of Rh sensitization. The material he presents was obtained from an isolated controlled population. Orozco discusses the rôle of hetero-specific immunization to the A and B factors and its relationship to the etiology of erythroblastosis. The highly technical details of the treatment of hemolytic disease of the newborn by substitution or exsanguination transfusion are given from the point of view of the clinician by Wallerstein.

In general, the volume consists of worthy contributions to the subject of Rh iso-immunization. It outlines some problems for future consideration. Its true nature is evident by virtue of its being a volume of assembled papers delivered at the International Hematology and Rh Conference held in Dallas, Texas, in November, 1946.

**HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.** F. R. Winton, M.D., D.Sc., Professor of Pharmacology, University College, London, and L. E. Bayliss, Ph.D., Reader in Physiology, University College, London. Third Edition with 248 Illustrations. The Blakiston Company.

The authors of this book are well known English medical scientists, who have contributed knowledge to both animal and human physiology over many years of research. The point of view is distinctly one of human physiology and the book is rich in illustrations from researches on human functions, but the authors also draw freely upon results of experiments on laboratory animals for depicting more exact and analytical studies for which the human subject is not suitable. There are 15 chapters with the traditional classification of functions more or less according to anatomical systems. There is an opening chapter entitled Physiological Activity in which are discussed the principles of muscular exercise, physiological equilibria and fatigue. Other chapters are The Circulation, The Blood and Other Body Fluids, Respiration, Digestion, etc.

It is unfortunate that the able discussion of metabolism and nutrition in chapter 6 is so far removed from the discussion of the ductless glands in chapter 15. Of the 22 pages of chapter 13 on the autonomic nervous system, 12 are devoted to the chemical transmission of the nervous impulse.

The style is lucid and interesting and the selection of subject matter has been made with the view to making the book useful to the medical practitioner. The authors have done well to include so much information in 564 pages of text matter. There are 28 pages of index. The type is clear and the paper of good quality.

**TREATMENT IN GENERAL PRACTICE.** By Harry Beckman, M.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Marquette University School of Medicine, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sixth Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London. \$11.50.

Revised on an average of once every three years, this book is one of the relatively few medical works of this size written by a single author. It would of course be expected that specialists in each of the included fields might readily find fault with therapeutic details. The inexperienced medical